



DOCTOR WHO #4

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JOHN BYRNE'S LATEST ASSIGNMENT ARRIVES IN MAY! The esteemed creator launches his first-eyer Star Trek miniseries

Among the few living and working

comic book creators who really do need no introduction. John Byrne is an individual near the top of that very short list. And yet despite decades of phenomenal success that has seen him help revive characters from the X-Men to Superman, as well as debut runs on his own wildly successful creations like John Byrne's Next Men, the lifelong Star Trek fan has never actually put pen to a Star-Teel comic book until coming to IDW

After getting a warm-up with the After Spatlight Romaleur book released in Ecbruary. Byrne has opened up the afterburners for his first-ever fullfledged Star Trek series Star Trek-Assignment Earth Part of IDW's Star Trek: Second Stage line of titles that feature major storytelling talent for its second year of publishing Starfleet stories, the book takes the "back-door" pilot seen as the season two finale of The Original Series and, 40 years later, gives life to the spin-off that never came to pass. Byrne took a break from his drawing table to talk to IDW about his new Star Trek work, reviving his older Next Men comics, and the joys of watching young Terl Gare.



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JB: The most prosaic way possible-I was

IDW: Dougder soon the

connect his, and thus is the

asked! IDW Editor-in-Chief Chris Ryall had contacted me about the Next Mee reprints, and threw out the idea of my doing some Star Trek stuff. I protested that my likenesses were not up to the task, but he is a

and I asked about Gary Seven.

persistent little bugger (name that quotel) and suggested maybe one of the Alien Spotlight books, where likenesses would not be an issue. Thus, Rosmires. Then Chris asked if there was anything else I'd be interested in doing in that vein,

IDM: That's a series obscure character. What about how couch your atternse? It was that assessor hallpoon per, right!

IB: That, and Teri Garri No. seriously, when I first saw the episode, at the end of the second season of The Original Series, I was still naive enough not to recognize it as a pilot. I saw it in much the same light as Harry Mudd-a character/situation being introduced that would turn up again in future episodes. When no such episodes were forthcoming, I thought about doing some of my own, though I didn't really consider ever actually having a place to put 'em!

IDW: Still, si's not incrediffy original idea to do a contex version of the most assumed Star Trek title ever published. Wer that wher you

18: The year skips are a minor element, really I've said elsewhere that unless the reader is really hip to the history of the period, they will most likely not get any sense of how much time is passing. Mostly I'm doing it because I want to start close to the original episode, which was 1968, but one of the stories I came up with involves Nixon's visit to Chies. which was 1972. But, really, to a casual reader, PII bet if I said there was no more than a month between issues there would be nothing-aside from Roberta's hair, which will be different in every issue-to clue them in to anything otherwise.

IDW: With the storner set on the 1960s and '70s how well you keep

JB: Well, there's a big honkin' Ster Tree in the logo, for a start! Also, the second issue "crosses over" with an actual episode of The Original Series. I'd thought about doing this in the third issue, but the Trekkie inside me couldn't want.

IDW: Abs, a Trebbut, not a Trebber That's a sure sign of an aid-school

1B: Mosth, the likenesses issue. Much as I love Sur Trek I did not want to face the melimare of licensed projects again Having actors sign off on their images is always a pain. Their mirrors don't work the same way that cameras do?

IDW: There are very few needle who have drawn both Sear Tark and the X-Men without begans actually denote "Star Teck/X-Men." There's you, Dave Cookswa, and I shock Jon Lee did a Voyager cover If you could do a Star Tick crossour however you'd like.

JB: This is nothing major, but since I started working on Assessment Earth, I have found myself thinking a crossover with Roddenberry's other, similarly themed busted pilot. The Owever Tapes would be fun.

IDW: Let's cells about a few of your other projects. Your series FX sveb Wiever Osborne (also published by IDW) is glavinally rero, a superhern book that feels like it's straight out of the late 1970s or early Will Is that one of year favorne eras in counce?

JB: No, my favorite is a bit earlier! But it's definitely Wayne's I think it's a disservice to call the book "retro," though It's definitely not grim and gritty-or "gloomy," as Dave Gibbons has pointed out the "grim and gritty" books really are. It's old-time superheroics, much in the vein of Stan and Jack's Familie Four, or Stan and Steve's Studer-Max, but it has its own set of modern sensibilities, soo. There'll be no doubt reading it that this is a book set in the 21st century, intended for a 21st century audience.

IDW: IDW is also going to reprine your court Next Men rue, along with 2112. Babe and Danger, Unlimited. In these she possibility of a new Next Men series on the horizon? This is your

JB: If it looks like Next Mes can be done as something other than a vanny project, I will certainly do a. The series has a definite ending I even know the last line!-- and I would very much like to shake those 20 or so issues out of my head some day!

IDW. Any possibility of another Star Tink monotons after Assignment Earth? A were maditional Kirk-era story. or sometime see so The Next Generation?

JB: Doing Roseslass and Assignment Earth has opened a door in my head that has been closed-or at least pushed to closefor a long time. All kinds of stuff seems to be trying to spill out. If Assessment Earth goes over well, I'd like to do more of that, plus there is another potential "spin-off" that Chris and I touched on briefly Aside from a few Poyager episodes, though, there really un't any Sur Trok for me after The Original Series, and unless I'm allowed to go check out some of the other ships of the fleet, visiting that period brings up the old spectre of likenesses again! Pres











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Steve Niles and Bernie Wrightson team up for this noir-horror 3-issue miniseries



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